

the broad fix to the section 8 program I had originally sought. And subsidized housing facilities like Creative Living cannot accept new students under the section 8 program until a more permanent solution is enacted by this body.

□ 1315

To that end I will continue to work to ensure that facilities like this can continue to house students with disabilities in the future and allow them to pursue their dreams.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, first of all, I would like to thank the gentlewoman from Ohio, Ms. PRYCE; the gentlemen from Ohio, Mr. TIBERI and Mr. HOBSON; and the distinguished chairman of the Subcommittee on Housing and Community Opportunity, from Ohio, Mr. NEY; as well as the ranking member, Mr. BARNEY FRANK; and Chairman OXLEY for their work on this measure. The full Committee on Financial Services reported it out unanimously by voice vote on May 24 of this year. As indicated by my colleague Ms. PRYCE, this bill corrects an unintended consequence of a provision added to the HUD appropriations bill last year that sought to close a loophole in the Section 8 program allowing student athletes and other non-needy students access to subsidized housing.

The fiscal year 2006 Transportation, Treasury, HUD, Judiciary and D.C. Appropriations conference report, codified as Public Law 109-115, included a provision that effectively counted the income of parents when determining whether students under the age of 24 are eligible to receive Section 8 assistance. That provision does not apply to veterans or to students who are married or have children. This bill, H.R. 5117, would additionally exempt students with disabilities from this treatment.

Mr. Speaker, the same appropriations bill included language intended to close the loophole in the Section 8 program which allowed student athletes and other non-needy students access to Section 8 housing intended for low-income persons. While this was not the intention of the appropriators, it created a potential hardship for the disabled community. However, the final rule issued by HUD in response to Public Law 109-115 has the potential to disqualify from Section 8 eligibility those severely disabled individuals under the age of 24 who are enrolled in an institution of higher learning.

H.R. 5117 is prescriptive, Mr. Speaker. It merely adds persons with disabilities to the list of exempt individuals. Of course, the disabled can least afford additional burdens and, therefore, anything that we can do to lessen their burden is well worth it. The final rule issued by HUD included this prohibition, and the sooner it is lifted, we will be able to return a sense of fairness to

the Section 8 program, particularly where disabled students are concerned.

So I would urge my colleagues to support the passage of H.R. 5117.

And let me just say that this bill is typical of the kind of work that is getting done on our committee. We have tremendous cooperation from both sides of the aisle to do good work relative to making sure that not only rental opportunities are available to those who need it, but we are doing wonderful work in this committee on home ownership issues. What better month to be able to correct this problem in law than the month of June. This is National home ownership Month, and I think that our committee has certainly recognized this. And while we make this correction, we are working on a lot of other bills.

I am so proud of the work that we are all doing on FHA to bring it up to date and make sure that our opportunities are available for the least of these. I am so proud of the work that we are going to mark up on voucher reform. I am very pleased about the idea that many of us are getting together to try to hold on to HOPE VI.

So in this National home ownership Month, today we stand to send a signal not only to the disabled but to those who somehow get overlooked, forgotten, that we really are on point.

Mr. Speaker, again, let me just thank my colleagues on the committee on both sides of the aisle for the work that we are doing. I thank them today for 5117, for all of the other work that we are doing, and I would say that many others in this House can look at the work that this committee is producing and be proud and perhaps even use it as an example.

And so, Mr. Speaker, I urge passage at this time.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. PRYCE of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I just want to say this is a great victory today. We are ensuring that these students do not have to put away their textbooks or even hang up their lab coats because of something that we did when we thought we were correcting a problem. There are enough challenges put in front of individuals with severe disabilities, and worrying about a place to call home while they attend college should not be one of them.

I also appreciate the bipartisan effort on this bill and so many other pieces of legislation that moved through our committee.

And thank you, Ms. WATERS, for joining me in this effort.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. PRYCE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5117, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof)

the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. PRYCE of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on this legislation and insert extraneous material thereon.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Ohio?

There was no objection.

RECOGNIZING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE INTERSTATE HIGHWAY SYSTEM

Mr. PETRI. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 372) recognizing the 50th Anniversary of the Interstate Highway System.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 372

Whereas on June 29, 1956, President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed the Federal-Aid Highway Act of 1956 to establish a 41,000-mile National System of Interstate and Defense Highways, known as the "Interstate Highway System", and the Highway Revenue Act of 1956 to create a Highway Trust Fund;

Whereas in 1990, the National System of Interstate and Defense Highways was renamed the "Dwight D. Eisenhower National System of Interstate and Defense Highways" to recognize President Eisenhower's role in the creation of the system;

Whereas in 2006, this web of superhighways, now spanning a total of 46,876 miles throughout the United States, has had a powerful and positive impact on our national life;

Whereas the Interstate Highway System has proven vital in transporting people and goods from one region to another speedily and safely;

Whereas the Interstate Highway System has facilitated trade both within our national borders and globally and helped create unprecedented economic expansion and opportunities for millions of Americans;

Whereas the Interstate Highway System has brought diverse communities throughout our land closer together and kept us connected to one another as well as the larger world;

Whereas the Interstate Highway System has made it easier and often more enjoyable to travel to long-distance destinations and spend time with family members and friends who live far away;

Whereas the Interstate Highway System is a pivotal component in our national system of defense and emergency preparedness efforts;

Whereas the Interstate Highway System remains one of our country's paramount assets as well as a symbol of human ingenuity and freedom; and

Whereas this anniversary provides an occasion to both honor one of the largest public works achievements of all time and reflect on how it can remain effective in the years ahead: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That Congress—

(1) recognizes the golden anniversary year of the Dwight D. Eisenhower National System of Interstate and Defense Highways;

(2) recognizes the achievements of the Federal Highway Administration (and its predecessor,